

2006 Invasive Plants Calendar

Weeds Gone Wild are plants introduced into new areas outside their native ranges that have become invasive in natural habitats. Introduced plants are also referred to as *alien*, *exotic*, *non-native*, and *non-indigenous*. Native plants occur in a particular habitat and ecosystem as a result of natural forces, excluding human activities. Invasive plants crowd out native species when introduced to new habitats. They reproduce and spread rapidly because they lack the natural controls present in their native lands.

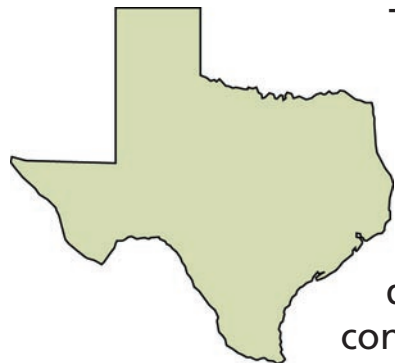
For more information on the identification and management of invasive plants affecting natural areas, including fact sheets for some of the species in this calendar, take a look at the site (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>).

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas is a web-based project of the Alien Plant Working Group that provides information for the general public, land managers, researchers, and others on the serious threat and impacts of invasive alien plants to the native flora, fauna, and natural ecosystems of the United States. The site provides:

- An invasive plant list for the United States
- Background on the problem including terminology
- Illustrated fact sheets with control options
- Invasive species internet links
- And much more!

The Alien Plant Working Group provides public education, invasive plant management advice, networking, regional support, and policy guidance. For more details, please refer to the group's "Action Agenda for Invasive Plants" available on the website.

APWG works with a variety of organizations across the United States and internationally. For this year's calendar we've decided to highlight a few of the US based invasive plant organizations and their websites. If you would like to get involved with APWG, please send an email to the Alien Plant Working Group Chairperson, Jil Swearingen (jil_swearingen@nps.gov).



The **Pulling Together Initiative** started in May 2005 as a Texas-sized partnership to manage non-native invasive plants. Partners collaborate to provide information about identification and management of invasive plants, establish locations for invasive plant demonstration areas, and, through a statewide conference, facilitate information sharing about non-native invasive plants.

<http://www.texasinvasives.org>

January 2006

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Photo: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, invasive.org

Love in a puff (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*) is listed as a noxious plant in Texas.



Photo: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, invasive.org

Saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) is a fire-adapted species and has long tap roots that allow it to intercept deep water tables and interfere with natural aquatic systems. Saltcedar disrupts the structure and stability of native plant communities and degrades native wildlife habitat by outcompeting and replacing native plant species, monopolizing limited sources of moisture, and increasing the frequency, intensity and effect of fires and floods.



The **Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council** (SE-EPPC) was formally established in March 1999. SE-EPPC currently includes Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. Their mission is to raise public awareness about invasives, facilitate communication & the exchange of information, provide a forum for participation, serve as a multifaceted support council on all aspects of invasive plants, help prevent future introductions, and facilitate action campaigns to monitor & control invasives in the Southeast.

<http://www.se-eppc.org/>

February 2006

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Photo: Charles T. Bryson, USDA, ARS, invasive.org

Deep-rooted sedge (*Cyperus entrerianus*) is a wetland sedge that invades disturbed areas throughout the southeastern United States.

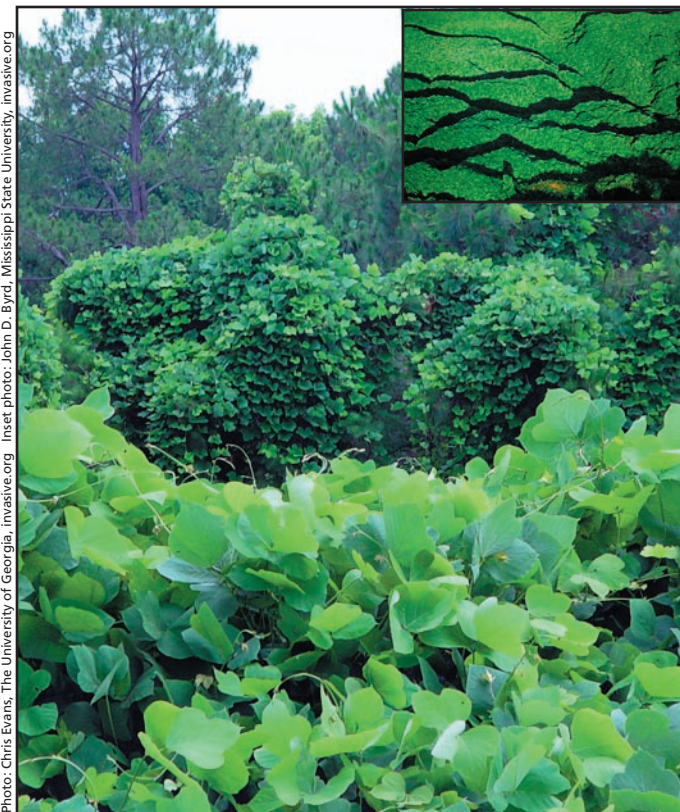


Photo: Chris Evans, The University of Georgia, invasive.org Inset photo: John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, invasive.org

Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) is a climbing deciduous vine capable of reaching lengths of over 100 feet, often growing over, smothering, and killing all other vegetation including trees.



Established in 2000, the **Center for Invasive Plant Management** (CIPM) promotes the ecological management of invasive plants in the western United States through education, by facilitating collaboration among researchers, educators, and land managers, and by funding

research projects and weed management areas. Their goal is to advance ecologically-based invasive plant management by serving as an information clearinghouse, providing examples of ecological management, and delivering implementation tools and products to land managers.

<http://www.weedcenter.org/>

March 2006

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Photo: CIPM

Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) invades western rangelands.

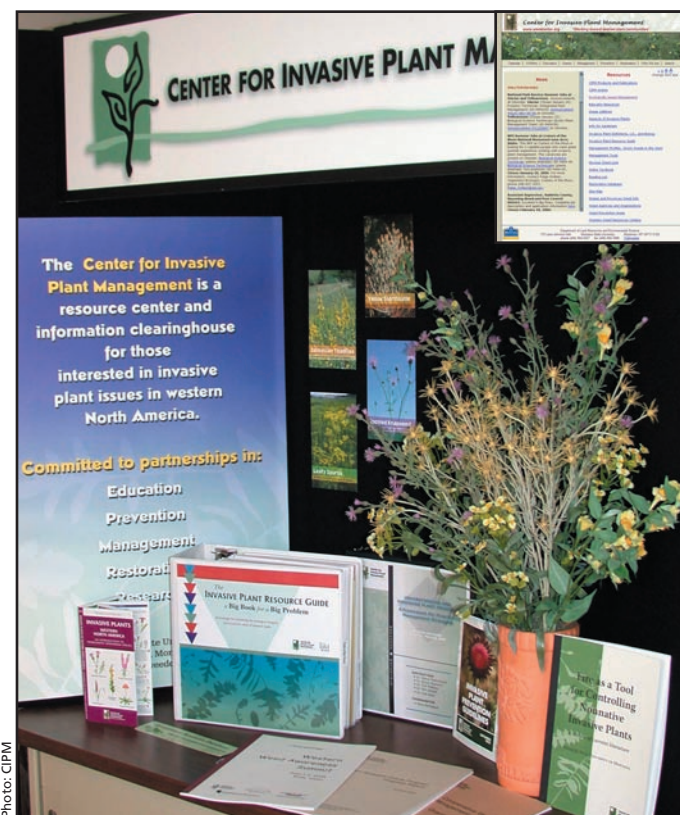


Photo: CIPM

CIPM offers a web-based information clearinghouse that includes weed profiles, restoration-information database, educational curricula, lists of funding sources, and resources for weed management areas and gardeners. They also develop online educational workshops led by scientists, as well as self-study modules for land managers.

Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin

The mission of the **Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin** (IPAW) is to promote better stewardship of the natural resources of Wisconsin by advancing the understanding of invasive plants and encouraging the control of their spread. IPAW sponsors several committees and groups that work to educate and organize people to defend against the spread of invasive plants.

<http://www.ipaw.org/>

April 2006

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Photo: Jody Shimp, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, invasive.org

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) invades forests and roadsides. An early bloomer, garlic mustard shades out spring wildflowers and other native understory herbs before they get a chance to develop.



Photo: Michael Shephard, USDA Forest Service, invasive.org

Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is a perennial, cool-season, rhizomatous plant in the grass family that grows successfully in northern latitudes. Its creeping rhizomes often form a thick sod layer which can exclude all other plants.



The **Midwest Invasive Plant Network** (MIPN) started in October 2002 and currently includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. With a mission to reduce the impact of invasive plant species in the Midwest, MIPN's approach is to engage a broad network of people working on invasive plants in order to share information, collaborate on invasive plant projects, and raise awareness at a regional level. MIPN has five committees: Early Detection and Monitoring, Education, Fundraising, Green Industry, and Research.

<http://www.mipn.org/>

May 2006

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Photo: MIPN

Land managers discussing invasives at an Indiana nature preserve.



Photo: MIPN

An invasive species monitoring project in Illinois.



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, IPANE

Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is an aggressive viney invader that threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas.



Cal-IPC
California Invasive Plant Council

California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) protects California's wildlands from invasive plants through research, restoration, and education. Formed in 1992, Cal-IPC publishes the state's definitive list of wildland weeds. Current campaigns include statewide mapping and partnering with nurseries to prevent introductions. Some of their recent accomplishments include printing The Weed Workers' Handbook with The Watershed Project, and developing regional "Don't Plant a Pest!" brochures describing alternatives to invasive plants for home gardeners and landscapers.

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/>

June 2006

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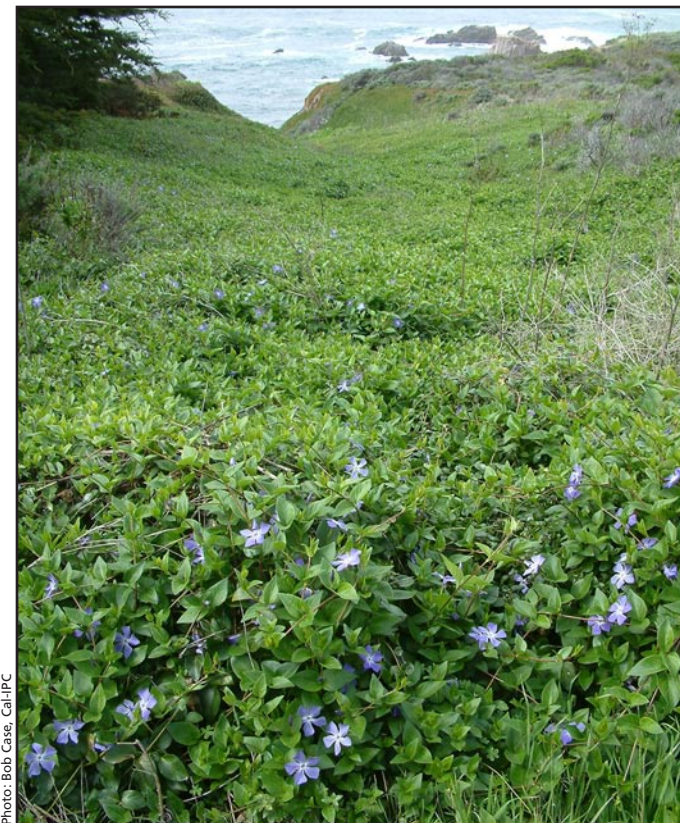


Photo: Bob Case, Cal-IPC

Bigleaf periwinkle (*Vinca major*) invades Garrapata State Park along the California coast.



Photo: Joe Ditomasso, Cal-IPC Inset photo: Frank Wallace, Cal-IPC

A controlled burn of yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). Inset: Members of the Sacramento Weed Warriors remove Spanish broom on the American River Parkway.

July 2006



The **Invasive Plant Atlas of New England's** (IPANE) mission is to create a continually updated comprehensive web-accessible database of invasive and potentially invasive plants in New England. IPANE is actively creating a network of trained volunteers who inventory habitats for the presence and absence of invasive plant species. The database facilitates education and research that will lead to a greater understanding of invasive plant ecology and support informed conservation management. An important focus of the project is the early detection of, and rapid response to, new invasions.

<http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/>

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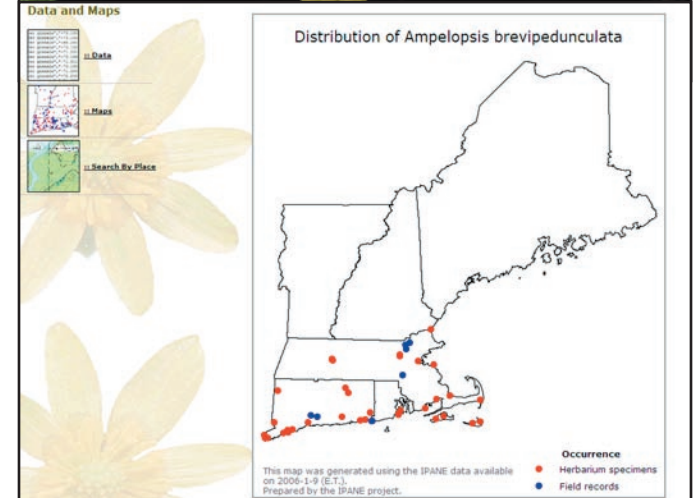


Photo: IPANE

Chris Mattrick with the 2005 Golden Geek award at the 2nd New England Invasive Plant Summit.



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Univ. of Connecticut, IPANE



Porcelainberry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) photo and IPANE website distribution map.



The **Michigan Invasive Plant Council** (MIPC) started in January 2002 as a group of people that share a common concern about the effects of invasive plants in Michigan. Their mission is "to protect Michigan from the threat of invasive plants." MIPC holds annual symposia in conjunction with other conferences. They

also engage in outreach through a website, newsletter, travelling exhibit, educational programs, and by giving presentations on invasive plants to various audiences.

<http://forestry.msu.edu/mipc/>

August 2006

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Photos: MIPC

MIPC put together an interactive "Weed Spotter" program for elementary school-aged children modeled after the National Park Service's Junior Ranger program. The MIPC program used live specimens and several hands-on demonstrations to help children identify and understand the problems associated with common Michigan invasive plants such as Eurasian water

milfoil, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife and phragmites. Following that, we had a brief question and answer period where the kids could earn a Weed Spotter Certificate, by properly identifying some of the plants and the habitats with which they are associated. Clockwise from top: Libby Rice dressed up as a Weed Spotter. A Weed Spotter certificate. MIPC provides information on May 31, 2003 at the Rouge River Celebration, an event that provided families with information about water resources.



What Weed Spotters can do:

- Learn more
- Plant identification
- Agitate weed workshops offered by Michigan Lake and Stream Association
- Do more
- Volunteer to control weeds through The Nature Conservancy
- Run an Eagle Scout project or Girl Scout or 4-H project to inform others
- Contact Michigan State University to set up a Purple Loosestrife Control Project in your school
- For more help or information contact Michigan Invasive Plant Council (askbrower and contact information)



CELEBRATING THE ROGUE

Kaz Knight, left in photo at left, and Lee Richter, both 11, use rubber stamps of insect parts to make up their own kind of bug/insect at the "Rogue River Celebration" on Saturday at Parkside Elementary School in Rockford. The Annis Water Resources Institute of Grand Valley State University and the Isaac Walton League sponsored the water science fair for families. Above: Libby Rice, right, of the Michigan Invasive Plant Council, talks to 12-year-old Debbie Woltz, center, of Grand Rapids, and John Koches about weeds and local plant life. Right: Mike Zoppa, right, of Belmont, takes a look at a map of the Rouge River watershed area, while Eric Snyder, left, of GVSU, looks on.



Press photos by JON M. BROUWER



The **Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management** in Alaska's (CNIPM) goal is to heighten the awareness of the problems associated with non-native invasive plants and to bring about greater statewide coordination, cooperation and action to halt the introduction and spread of undesirable plants. Established in June 2000, CNIPM is an informal group comprised of individuals representing agencies and organizations statewide.

<http://www.cnipm.org/>

September 2006

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Photo: Michael Shephard, USDA Forest Service, invasive.org

Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) is a fibrous-rooted perennial native to Europe. Flower enthusiasts interested in its beautiful orange flower assisted the distribution of this weed.



Photo: Elizabeth Bella, USDA Forest Service, invasive.org

Tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*) is a perennial plant with multiple vine-like stems. Vetch seeds disperse by the ballistic action of drying seedpods helping infestations grow rapidly.



Established in 1999, the purpose of the **Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council (MA-EPPC)** is to address the problem of invasive exotic plants and their threat to the Mid-Atlantic region's economy, environment, and human health by providing leadership, facilitating information development and exchange, and coordinating regional efforts. Members of the MA-EPPC represent Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

<http://www.ma-eppc.org/>

October 2006

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MA-EPPC supported publication of the book "Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas." This illustrated handbook describes over fifty highly invasive plants impacting the region's natural areas. It provides identification tips, a few suggested native plant alternatives and some control information for a variety of invasive aquatic and terrestrial species in the mid-Atlantic region. MA-EPPC will also support and the upcoming "Weed Buster's Handbook" for the mid-Atlantic region.

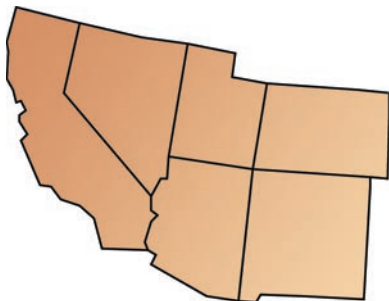


Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a prolific seed producer, grows rapidly, and can overrun native vegetation by forming an impenetrable thicket. Ailanthus trees also produces toxins that prevent the establishment of other plant species.



English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is an evergreen climbing vine. It is an aggressive invader that threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas, growing along the ground as well as into the forest canopy.

November 2006

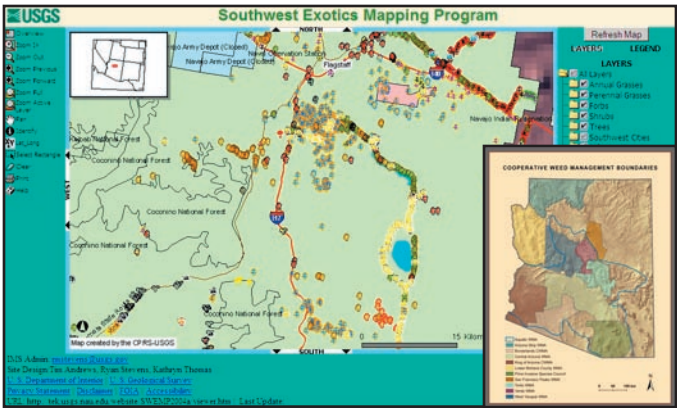


Southwest Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (SWEPIC) started in 1997 as a response to land management agencies indicating to the USGS that there was a need for invasive plant managers to share data across administrative boundaries. Their website provides lists of state listed noxious weeds and hosts invasive plant information developed for the southwest by the USGS and other collaborators including mapping projects.

States included are Arizona, New Mexico, adjacent areas of Nevada, Utah, and Colorado.

<http://www.usgs.nau.edu/SWEPIC/>

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SWEPIC hosts the USGS Southwest Exotic Plant Mapping Project (SWEMP) which is a regional database of invasive plant occurrence data. Inset: A map of the Cooperative Weed Management Areas in Arizona.



Photo: Larry Allain. USGS NWRC USDA PLANTS Database

Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) chokes riversides and stream channels, crowds out native plants, interferes with flood control, increases fire potential, and reduces habitat for wildlife.

Since the 1990's, the mission of the **Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk project** (HEAR) has been to provide technology, methods, and information to decision-makers, resource managers, and the general public to help support effective science-based management of harmful non-native species in Hawaii and the Pacific. HEAR's website contains a useful variety of resources including species information, photos, articles, educational materials, links, and much more.

<http://www.hear.org/>

December 2006

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Photo: Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

Velvet tree (*Miconia calvescens*) stands create a dense canopy of shade that native plants cannot tolerate, but its own seedlings can. Masses of it ensure very little light reaches the ground.



Photo: Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

Kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*) forms dense stands that smother plants and prevent native seedling regeneration.